

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 stand objected to for informalities in the claim language listed as items A-F. The present Amendment amends claims 1 and 2 all in accordance with the originally-filed specification to address these informalities. No new matter has been added. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0012] and [0029] of the originally-filed specification.

Claim 2 is also objected to, under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) for asserted failure to limit the subject matter of claim 1.

In particular the Examiner asserted that claim 1 “only lists Ni and Co as being possible choices” while claim 2 allows for Ni and Co, as a third possible choice for the catalytic-activity constituent. This assessment of claims 1 and 2 is not accurate. The Examiner refers to the limitation of the catalytic-activity constituent of claim 1, but the component recited in claim 2 is not the catalytic-activity constituent, but catalytic-activity particles.

In claim 1, the catalytic-activity constituent is the material that exists before calcining and activation. On the other hand, the catalytic-activity particles are components produced by calcining and activation of the catalytic-activation constituent together with other components. See for example, the following excerpts (emphasis added) from the published application demonstrating the association between the catalytic-activation constituent and the catalytic-activation particles:

The catalytic-activity constituent is reacted with the carrier-forming constituent and converted to a complex oxide during calcining. The calcined body is then activated at a temperature of 500°C or higher in a reducing atmosphere. Fine catalytic-activity particles, which are produced from the complex oxide by activation, are uniformly distributed on a surface of a carrier with high dispersion. ([0012])

A complex oxide as a precursor of catalytic-activity particles is produced by calcining the impregnated porous perform at a high temperature in the atmosphere, whereby the catalytic-activity constituent is reacted with the carrier-forming constituent and converted to a nano-complexed compound. In the nano-complexed state, the catalytic-activity and carrier-forming constituents are

distributed with high-grade uniformity enough to suppress growth of catalytic-activity particles, which will be produced from the complex oxide in the following activating step. ([0029])

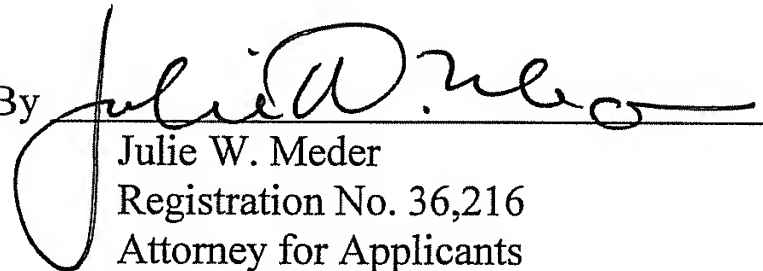
Therefore, it is clear that the catalytic-activity particles are a different component from the catalytic-activity constituent, which is supported in the specification.

In claim 1, the catalytic-activity constituent is at least one of Ni and Co. In amended claim 2, the catalytic-activity particles are Ni, Co, or a mixture of Ni and Co which is not broader than claim 1.

Withdrawal of the claim objections and allowance of claims 1 and 2 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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